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Economic Affairs Interim Committee 63rd Montana Legislature

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ELSIE ARNTZEN
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COMMITTEE STAFF
PATRICIA MURDO, Lead Staff
BART CAMPBELL, Staff Attorney
KRISTINA LIMING, Secretary

July 15, 2014

Senator Jeff Essmann, Chair
and Legislative Council

Dear Senator Essmann and Legislative Council members:

A budget increase is being requested for the 8-member Economic Affairs Committee in the FY2017 Biennium, and the Economic Affairs Committee has endorsed the increase for the following reasons:

- The Economic Affairs Committee has monitoring responsibilities for a diverse array of state agencies, covering industry from agriculture and livestock to banking and all employment issues, including workers' compensation. Monitoring covers four departments plus the State Auditor's Office, the Governor's Office of Economic Development, Montana State Fund, and the Office of the Commissioner of Banking and Financial Institutions. The Office of the Commissioner of Banking and Financial Institutions was added in the 2013 Session. See 5-5-233, MCA.

This past interim the committee decided that the number of issues and the complexity of many of these issues required 2-day meetings. Given the distance that many members have to travel, the number of issues to be covered in meetings, and the recognition by Legislative Council that safe travel particularly in the fall and winter months can mean arriving the day before a meeting that starts early, there is a need for a larger budget for Economic Affairs to accommodate the extra legislative travel days and stays and the full meeting days.

The Economic Affairs Committee hopes that the Legislative Council will see fit to endorse the increase in funding for this active committee.

Sincerely,

Senator Bruce Tutvedt
EAIC Presiding Officer

Representative Ryan Lynch
EAIC Vice Presiding Officer

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